



Eastside Reinvestment Summit 2nd Annual Report

Mayor Julián Castro
and
Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor



Many of the photos in this packet are courtesy of Juan Garcia.



JULIÁN CASTRO
MAYOR

February 3, 2012

Dear Friends,

Two years ago, City Councilwoman Ivy Taylor and I launched a series of East Side Reinvestment Summits that revolved around a simple, but powerful idea. If San Antonio is to truly prosper, every part of the city must share in that prosperity and offer its residents a realistic hope for opportunity. The East Side, to put it bluntly, had been overlooked for too many years.

Today, the positive news is that the City and my office remain as committed as ever to realizing lasting change on the East Side. We have succeeded in creating an area that is more investment ready by making neighborhoods safer, aggressively enforcing code compliance ordinances and addressing educational issues so that every child in every neighborhood can get a great education in San Antonio.

With the help of community partners like the San Antonio Independent School District, the San Antonio Housing Authority and the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, we are starting to see the fruits of our labor.

The \$24 million Promise Neighborhood federal grant gives us a powerful tool to impact educational attainment in all of the schools in the Wheatley Middle School feeder pattern to Sam Houston High School. A combination of City investment and United Way leadership at Tynan Early Learning Center is also helping to ensure that a new generation of young people will be prepared to succeed academically by starting school "kindergarten-ready."

Meanwhile, the new military missions and major investments at Fort Sam Houston are creating the inertia for increased economic activity and improved housing choices throughout the East Side. In December, the City — with City Council approval — also forged a new partnership with St. Philip's College to breathe new life into the Good Samaritan Hospital Building by turning it into a Veterans Outreach and Transition Center.

Across the board, the level of collaboration that exists today is breathtaking compared to a few short years ago. We are proud of the progress we have made, but we are by no means finished.

Sincerely,



JULIÁN CASTRO
MAYOR



IVY R. TAYLOR
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

February 3, 2012

Dear Neighbor,

In 2010, the people of San Antonio's Eastside brought their knowledge and talents together to re-envision their community as a place of educational opportunity, desirable housing and economic prosperity. Together, they joined with the City of San Antonio and numerous private and public partners to reinvest in the neighborhoods and people of the Eastside.

Education, job creation and housing rehabilitation became the focus of City staff and took on an even higher priority in my office. These areas of emphasis, along with crime prevention and code compliance, began to shape the way San Antonio residents see the Eastside.

The progress we've made has been possible because of the hard work of Eastside residents, City staff and the public and private organizations that saw opportunities in east San Antonio. In 2010, participants in the Eastside Reinvestment Summit meetings enabled significant achievements over the last two years and set the framework for future success. Today, we come together not only to look back on what we have accomplished but also to look to the future.

There are many amazing opportunities on the horizon for the Eastside. Every week more houses are refurbished and more streets and sidewalks are repaired; Promise Neighborhood and Choice Neighborhood grants commit even more time and more talents to improving the educational and housing opportunities for children; and San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE) continues to bring new jobs and new businesses to our community.

If we expect the vision we established in 2010 to become reality, we should continue to collaborate and to share ideas and opportunities.

Sincerely,



IVY R. TAYLOR
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2



SHERYL SCULLEY
CITY MANAGER

February 3, 2012

Dear Community Stakeholders:

As we recognize the second anniversary of the Eastside Reinvestment Summit, I would like to report on progress we have made to improve the City's Eastside neighborhoods and reaffirm the City's commitment to the Eastside. Based on feedback we received at the Eastside Summit in 2010, we focused on "the 4 Cs" – Code Enforcement, Crime, Canines, and Catalytic economic development projects. While our work is far from complete, I am pleased with the results. Overall, our accomplishments illustrate the progress we have made on the goals established at the first Eastside Summit in 2010. Since the first Eastside Summit meeting in February 2010, these are some of the improvements:

- Violent crime has decreased by 22.5% and property crime has decreased by 15.4%.
- A total of 2,676 vacant structures were cleaned or secured and 99 vacant structures were demolished.
- Code Enforcement abated 858,230 square feet of graffiti and responded to 21,994 reactive complaints.
- Animal Care Services provided 1,460 spay and neuter services and 4,966 dogs were impounded.
- Solid Waste Management sponsored 31 recycling outreach events and collected 403 tons of waste from illegal dump piles.
- 1,995 potholes were repaired; 672 traffic sign improvements were made; and 261 base and pavement repairs were made.

A catalytic economic development project is underway with a partnership between the City and the Alamo Community College District. In December, City Council approved this partnership for the Good Samaritan Hospital Building. The City will provide up to \$2 million to acquire and renovate the building and St. Philip's College will operate their Veteran's Outreach and Transition Center from the building. In June 2011, City Council expanded the Inner City Reinvestment/Infill Policy (ICRIP) boundary to include more of the Eastside. This will encourage reinvestment by providing City and San Antonio Water System (SAWS) fee waivers for development projects. Economic development on the Eastside remains a priority and we will continue to work on implementing catalytic economic development projects.

The City of San Antonio remains committed to Eastside redevelopment and continued quality of life improvements on the Eastside. In the coming year, we will continue to work with stakeholders to implement catalytic economic development projects and to expand housing choices on the Eastside. By partnering with residents, business owners, and community leaders, we can continue to achieve the vision established two years ago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheryl Sculley", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sheryl Sculley
City Manager

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Eastside Reinvestment Summit

In the winter of 2010 hundreds of San Antonio residents came together to participate in the Eastside Reinvestment Summit. The aim of the summit was to identify ways to drive economic development on the Eastside. Two years later economic development is underway and the building blocks are in place. Jobs have been created, new businesses have opened, and catalytic projects have begun.

The intent of this report is to highlight the development that is taking place around us. Specifically, this report will highlight the work on the 15 catalytic projects identified by Huntley Partners, COSA staff and Eastside residents. The catalytic projects came out of the three summit meetings that were held in January and February of 2010 and were finalized in the Huntley Partners original 2010 report. The catalytic projects address many aspects of enhancing Eastside quality of life ranging from media coverage to school performance to public transportation to specific development projects.

Within the previous two years many new programs have been started by COSA staff to ensure the goals of the summit are being met. These new programs cover areas such as enhanced code enforcement, increased communication between the Police Department and citizens, and an increase in available funding for Eastside businesses.



Eastside Reinvestment Summit

Summit-produced Catalytic Projects List

- 1: Improve the image and media coverage
- 2: Eliminate the negative perception of the Eastside
- 3: Encourage new construction of homes and improve existing housing stock
- 4: Improve and develop existing parks
- 5: Improve the school system and their facilities
- 6: Capitalize on youth in the area
- 7: Build a civilian hospital in the Eastside
- 8: Intensify the City's code-compliance enforcement
- 9: Redevelop the Friedrich Building
- 10: Improve the Mega Warehouse on WW White Road
- 11: Construct a streetcar system along Houston and Commerce Streets
- 12: Create a reinvestment zone around Fort Sam Houston
- 13: Develop Eastside corridors
- 14: Encourage mixed-use development that maintains the Eastside character
- 15: Create a retail development center near the Willow Springs Golf Course



Eastside Reinvestment Summit

The following pages will highlight the work that has been completed in the last two years. The projects in this report will show a variety of developments throughout the Eastside. Some of the projects came about as a direct result of the Eastside Reinvestment Summit and the catalytic projects, while other projects have been initiated by private developers, residents and community organizations. Much of the recent Eastside development and planning could not have taken place without the help of the following organizations:

San Antonio Housing Authority
United Way
St. Philip's College
Eastside Christian Action Group
Merced Housing Texas
Spurs Sports & Entertainment
UTSA College of Architecture

Green Spaces Alliance
San Antonio Water Authority
CPS
SAGE
Home Depot
Bexar County
The Huntley Partners



San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside

San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE) is an economic development organization that was formed in 2008 to help Eastside businesses participate in San Antonio's economic growth. The organization's goal is to promote Eastside businesses throughout the city and support existing businesses and help new businesses flourish. SAGE is driven by the desire to promote efficient, sustainable growth, championing small businesses, maintaining and promoting our area's history and culture and providing innovative solutions to Eastside challenges.

SAGE has five areas of focus in order to further their Eastside mission. These areas of focus include expanding the Storefront Grant Program that helps business owners improve their property, building a citywide support system for Eastside economic development projects, identifying and pursuing both public and private economic generation opportunities, building relationships with major employers, and enhancing New Braunfels Street through the New Braunfels Avenue Revitalization program. The Storefront Grant program has already helped 17 business owners improve their properties. These businesses include restaurants, performing arts centers, auto repair shops, flower shops and medical offices.



Development Projects

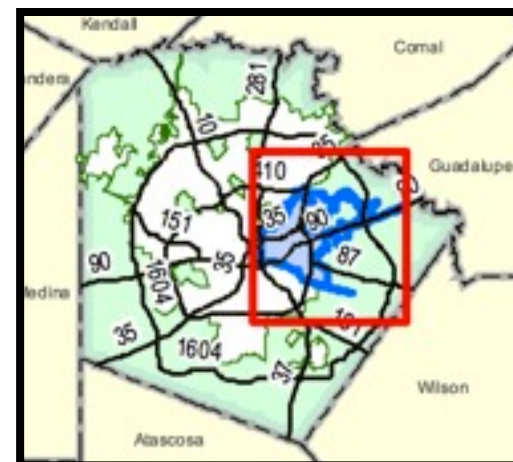
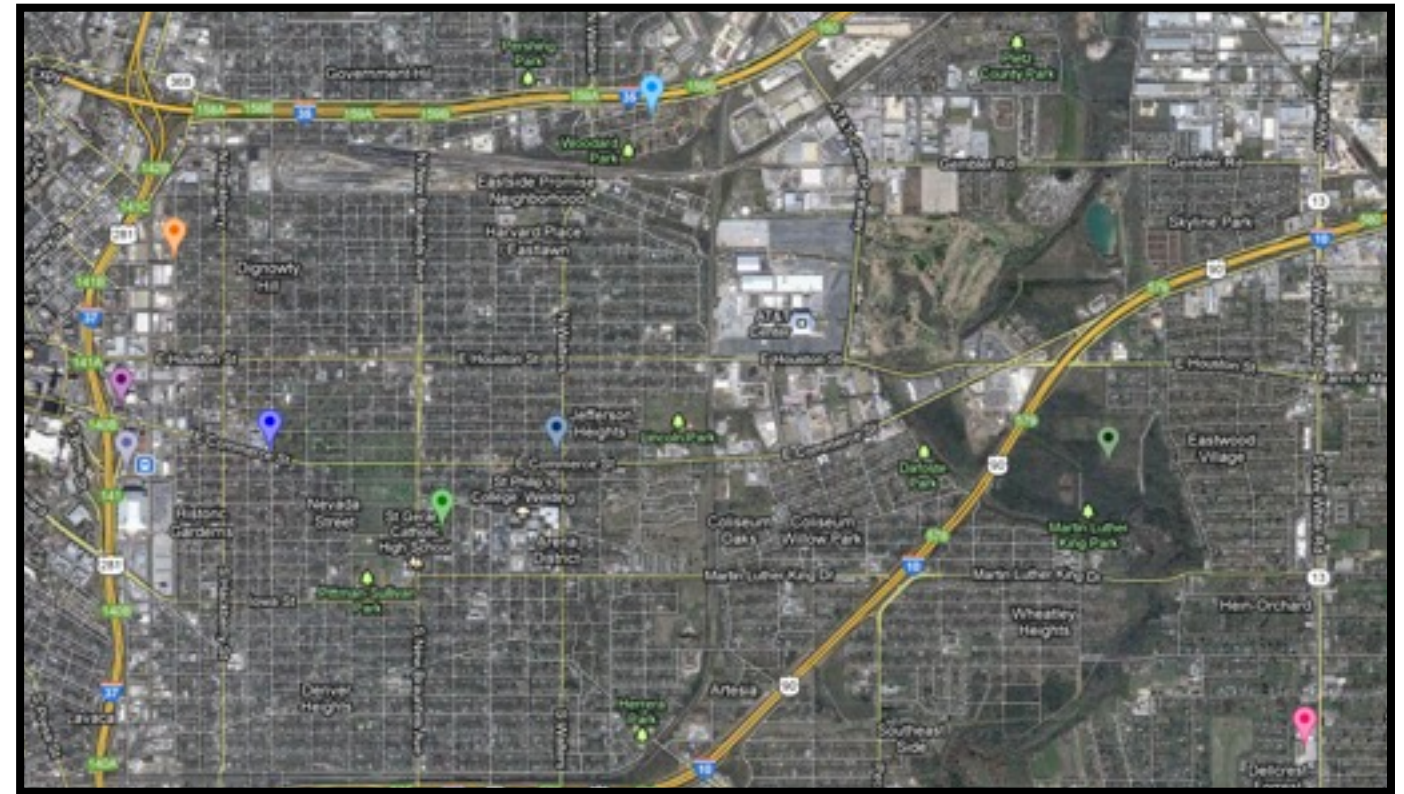
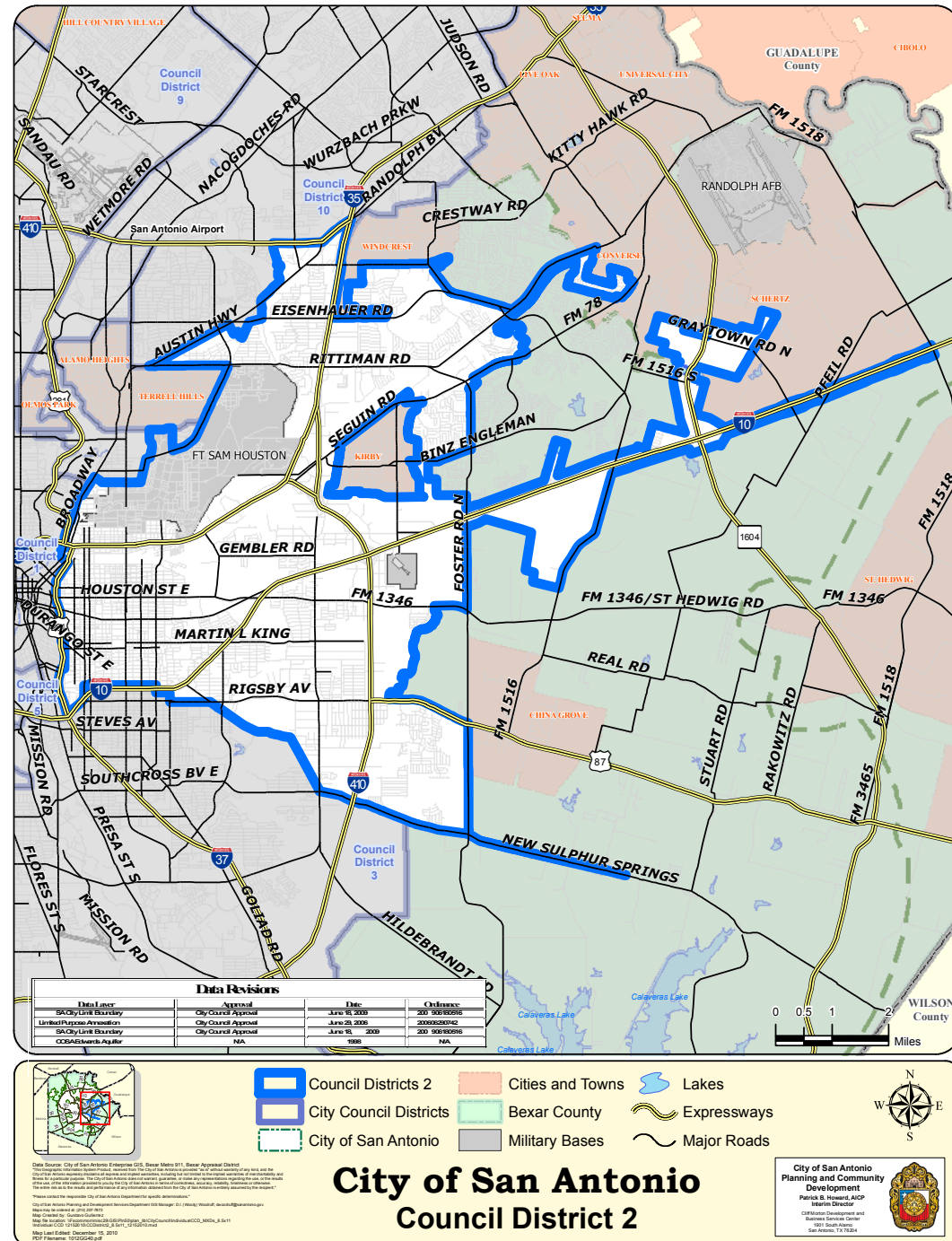
Investment in large-scale development projects was a point of focus in our 2010 Eastside Reinvestment Summit. As a part of that investment, summit attendees made clear the need to redevelop and refurbish existing buildings throughout the Eastside. Redevelopment of these buildings, such as the Good Samaritan Hospital and Mega Warehouse, was seen as a key factor in attracting more jobs and investment to the Eastside.

The refurbishing of these buildings is seen as vital because they provide the opportunity to attract development and enhance economic corridors. The City of San Antonio has contributed many resources through various programs. The City has helped paint houses, clean up vacant lots, repave roads and has also contributed dollars through programs such Inner City Reinvestment Infill Policy and Tax Increment Refinance Zone.

Although the process has often been slow it has been both steady and focused. Much of the work that has been accomplished in the last two years has created a stronger sense of pride in many Eastside neighborhoods and businesses.

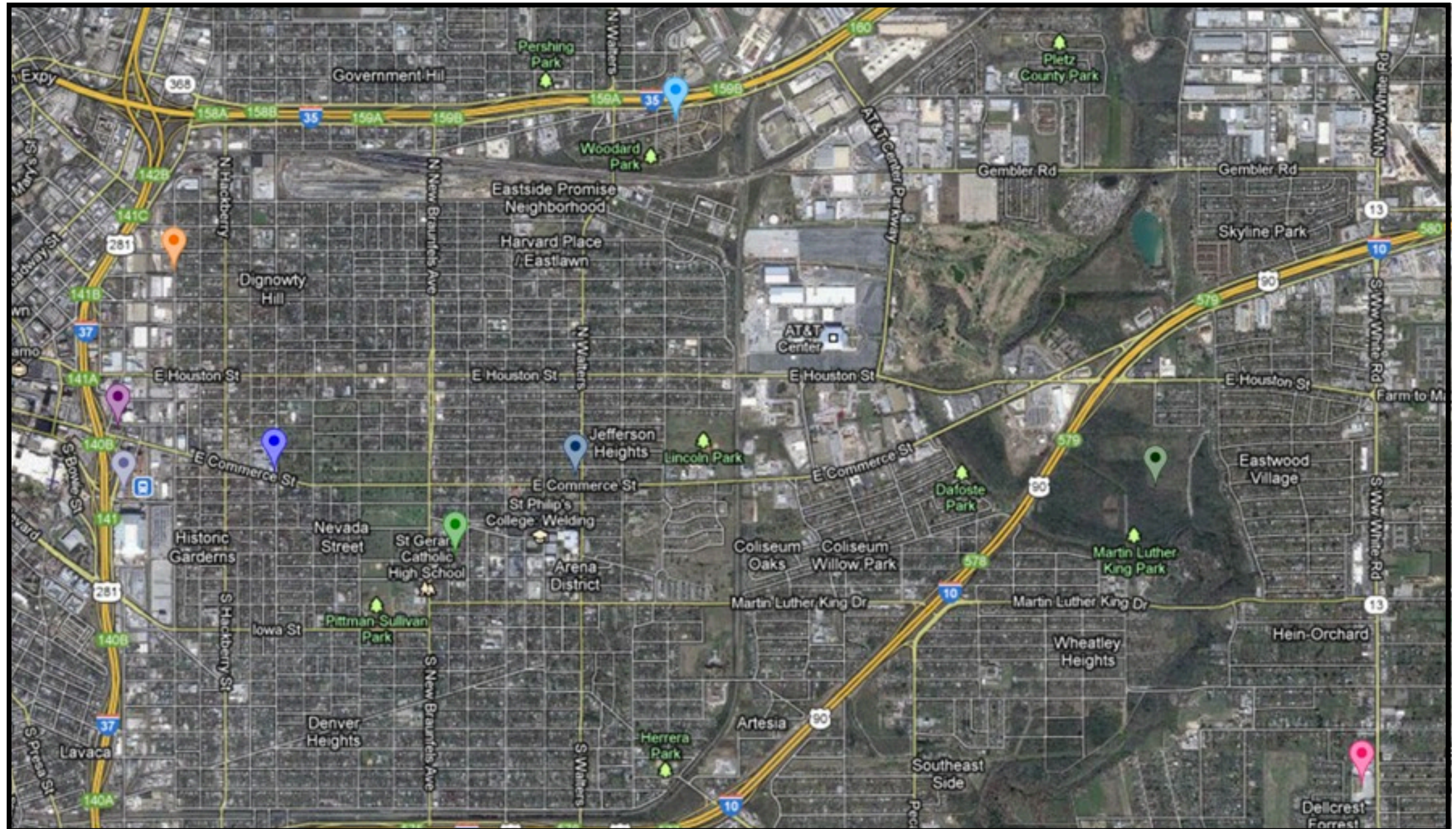


Development Projects - Completed & Planned



- Brewery & Hays Street Bridge
- Oscar Eason Apartments
- Sutton Oaks Apartments
- Ellis Alley
- Wheatley Sports Complex
- Mega Warehouse
- St. Philip's Eye Clinic
- Streetcar/Thompson Transit Center
- Good Samaritan Hospital

Development Projects - Completed & Planned



- Brewery & Hays Street Bridge
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Brewery & Hays St. Bridge

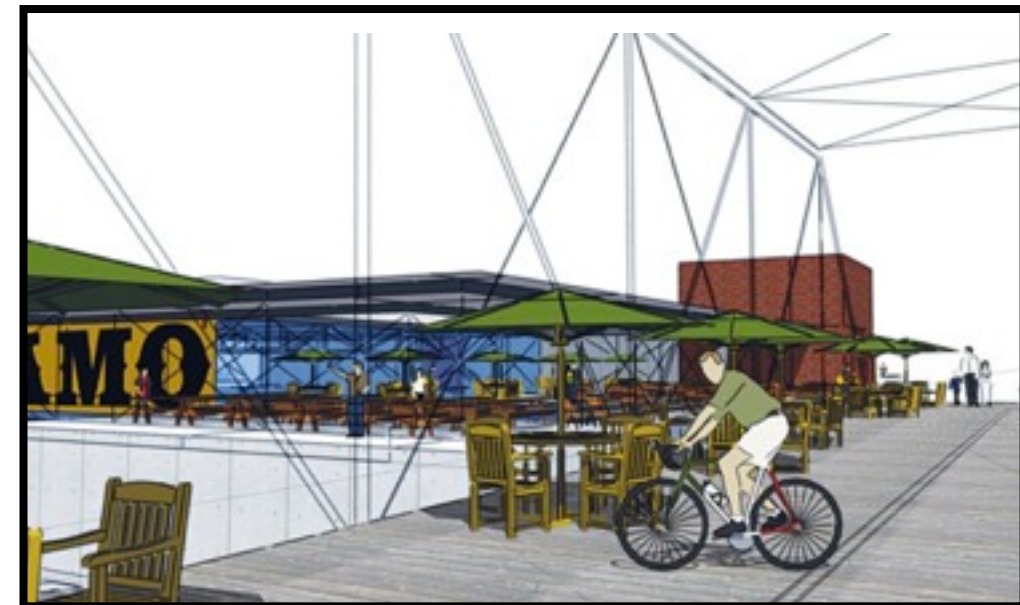
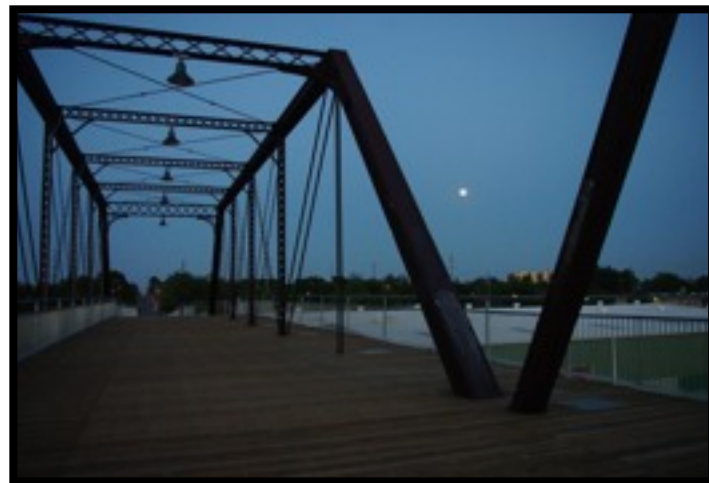
The Hays Street Pedestrian Bridge and Alamo Brewery could turn what was once an industrial wasteland into a hotspot of activity. The Hays Street Bridge attracts people from all over the city with its stunning views of downtown and Fort Sam Houston and the Alamo Brewery could soon add to that activity with a restaurant and linear park.

The Hays Street Bridge Restoration Group, in conjunction with the City of San Antonio, completed the restoration of the Hays Street Bridge in October of 2010 after years of hard work. The group's efforts have brought an attractive and exciting bright spot to an industrial area between Dignowity Hill and downtown. The pedestrian bridge demonstrates the commitment of Eastside residents to improving their community and it is now a city jewel.

Alamo Brewing Company, adding to the success of the Hays Street Bridge and a renewed interest in the Eastside, is in the planning stages of building a brewery and restaurant on a vacant industrial parcel next to the Hays Street Bridge. In addition to attracting tourists to the bridge and the brewery for tours, Alamo Brewery plans to create 40-50 new jobs over the next seven years as the brewery reaches full capacity. Construction of the brewery and restaurant is projected to begin in June of 2012 and could be open to the public in April of 2013.



Brewery & Hays St. Bridge



Mega Warehouse & WW White

W.W. White Road is quickly becoming a shopping and dining destination for people from all areas of San Antonio. Popular restaurants like Big Lou's Pizza, easy access to Loop 410, and proximity to attractions like MLK Park are making W.W. White an increasingly important corridor in east San Antonio. In addition to long-standing businesses like Chatman's Chicken new businesses, such as Inspirational Grounds, continue to open.

Near the heart of this corridor is the Mega Warehouse, a 50,000 square foot building owned by the Bexar County Opportunities Industrialization Center (BCOIC) that has sat vacant for many years. The City of San Antonio has been working with BCOIC to find a way to refurbish the building and add jobs to this expanding corridor. The City is considering providing BCOIC a loan of \$2 million in HUD 108 funds to rehab the building. BCOIC is working to find tenants for the building in order to be able to repay the loan.



Ellis Alley

Once the center of African American life in San Antonio, Ellis Alley is now a largely empty collection of historic buildings. The restoration of these buildings, however, has become a point of pride for Eastside residents. VIA Metropolitan Transit, the City of San Antonio, and the San Antonio Conservation Society have begun making the restoration of the six remaining buildings a reality.

In 1997 VIA acquired control of the Ellis Alley properties, all six buildings and the encompassing 3.24 acres, with the intent of refurbishing the buildings for future commercial use. Following acquisition of the properties, VIA spent \$900,000 to rehabilitate three of the buildings that are now used for passenger information, customer service and a dental office. In 2006 VIA sold a portion of the vacant parcels for development of the 20-story Vidora condo building. Through an interlocal agreement VIA and the City of San Antonio have coordinated to rehabilitate the remaining three buildings and have already installed a B-Cycle bike share station. The future redevelopment will highlight the historical and cultural significance of Ellis Alley and contain a small business incubator for professional and non-profit offices.



Incarnate Word Eye Clinic

There are over 170,000 people who live on the Eastside of San Antonio and only one practicing eyecare doctor to serve that population. University of the Incarnate Word plans to fill this health service gap with an \$11 million, 30,000 square foot eye clinic. The modern health facility will open by early 2013 and plans to serve 50,000 Eastside residents every year. Through the City's Tax Increment Financing Zone #11 \$1.2 million has been allocated for this project.

The eyecare center will be centrally located on the Eastside at the corner of Walters and Commerce Streets. The eye clinic will serve as an extension of the Rosenberg School of Optometry at the Medical Center and patients will be treated by doctors from the Rosenberg School.

In addition to bringing affordable eyecare to the Eastside, the center will hire 50 staffers, make the Eastside more attractive as a place to live, serve as a catalyst for other development projects, and attract more traffic and positive visibility on the Eastside.



Sutton Oaks Apartments

Originally built in 1952, the Sutton Homes public housing development faced a host of challenges, including a lack of resident amenities and deteriorating structures. In 2009, San Antonio Housing Authority came forward with a plan to completely rebuild the housing complex into a mixed-income, mixed-use development known as Sutton Oaks. This key location is close to Fort Sam Houston and accessible via I-35 and Walters Street.

Sutton Oaks Phase I is a \$24 million project set on the 28-acre site of Sutton Homes. Phase I of Sutton Oaks was completed in late 2010. The apartment complex now has 194 units, plus a clubhouse, business center, fitness center, laundry facility, and swimming pool. The complex has limited access gates and on-site security. Sutton Oaks Phase II recently received a forward commitment for funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

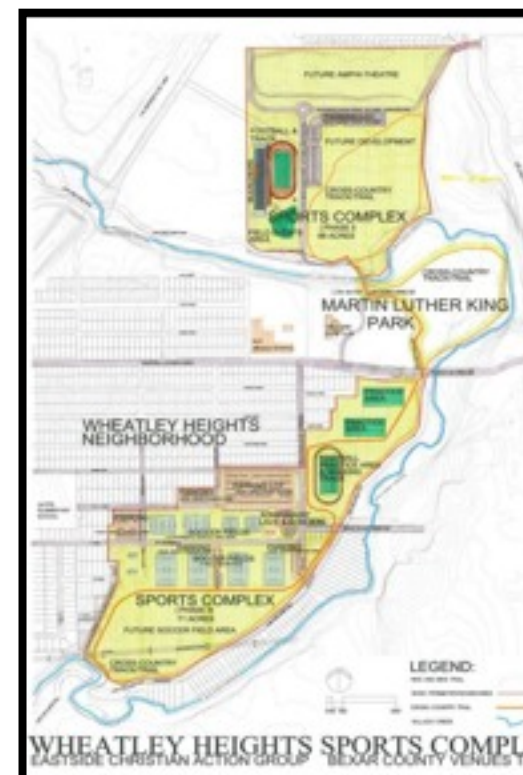
This new apartment development shows that new, dynamic development is taking place on the Eastside and that our neediest residents are being helped in a manner that recognizes everyone's rights to quality, affordable housing.



Wheatley Heights Sports Complex

The Wheatley Heights Sports Complex, a multi-million dollar project covering over 65 acres, will bring state-of-the-art athletic facilities to the Eastside. The sports complex will be able to attract athletic competitions from across the state and provide local children and teenagers with a place to practice and play multiple sports. The complex has four softball/baseball fields, one football field, one football practice field, eight soccer fields, a hike and bike trail, and a 3-mile cross country track along the Salado Creek trail.

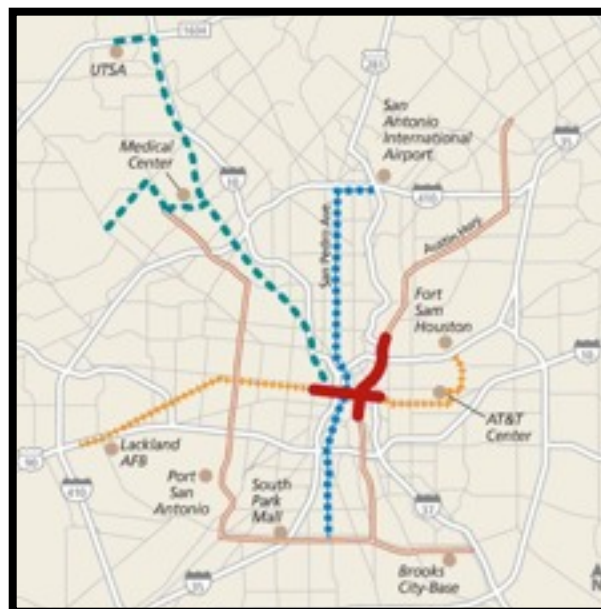
The sports complex is an asset to our community and will provide our children access to first-rate athletic fields. Participation in athletics will show our children the value of a healthy and active lifestyle and encourage them to become involved members of our community. The partnership between Eastside Christian Action Group, City of San Antonio, and Bexar County demonstrates the commitment San Antonio has to the children of the Eastside.



Streetcar and Public Transit Expansion

Expanding and growing public transportation in San Antonio will become increasingly important as the city continues to attract more residents and becomes denser in the neighborhoods around downtown. VIA, City of San Antonio, and Bexar County have begun working to develop a streetcar route that will have a terminus at the Thompson Transit Center resulting in more people passing through the Eastside. This will provide the Eastside the opportunity to show off its many assets that people might not otherwise see.

More than growing the number of people who pass through the area, the expanded Thompson Transit Center could lead to an expansion of the system in the future down Houston or Commerce Streets. This expansion will greatly benefit the Eastside in an untold number of ways.



Oscar Eason Senior Apartments

On November 16, 2011 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it will award Merced Housing Texas \$3,441,000 in Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly grant funds. These funds will be used to build 33 units of affordable housing for very low income seniors on the City of San Antonio's Eastside. Additionally, HUD's Section 202 Program will provide rental assistance so that residents will only pay 30 percent of their adjusted incomes for rent. The Section 202 Program provides very low-income elderly persons 62 years of age or older with the opportunity to live independently in an environment that provides support services to meet their unique needs.

This new community will be located at the corner of Olive and Commerce Streets, at 1602 East Commerce. The community is designed as a single, three-story building that features interior limited-access corridors, a computer lab, a laundry facility, a community room, and outdoor sitting areas. The 33 units are all one-bedroom units, two of which are fully ADA accessible. Merced will also work with local agencies and organizations to provide supportive Resident Services at the community.

Merced is partnering with architect St. Louis Design Alliance for the design of the community, general contractor Galaxy Builders for the property's construction, and consultant Kevin McKinney. Merced's Board of Directors and staff are very excited about this opportunity to continue serving the affordable housing needs of those who live on the City of San Antonio's Eastside.



Good Samaritan Hospital

Last December the San Antonio City Council authorized the purchase and rehabilitation of the Good Samaritan building for a Veterans Outreach and Transition Center. The City of San Antonio is partnering with St. Philip's College to rehabilitate the historic site located at 1602 Dakota Street in order to provide education and job training resources for Veterans.

The Good Samaritan Project will be funded \$2 million through Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Certificates of Obligation. The \$2 million allocated for the Good Samaritan Project will be utilized for acquiring the Good Samaritan property, a number of surrounding properties needed for parking, and for building renovations. Approximately \$375,000 will be used for acquisition of the property and \$1,650,000 will be used for renovating the building.

Once renovations are complete, veterans can go to the center for referral services, job training and consultation on their educational options.



Neighborhood Improvement Projects

Large projects such as redevelopment of the Good Samaritan hospital are important economic generators but recently painted houses, community gardens and historic street signs are points of pride. Projects like these have been developed all over the Eastside through the last two years. Glorietta Street got new sidewalks and houses were painted, Dignowity Hill has new historic street signs and Knob Hill has some on the way and community gardens have been started and flourish all over the Eastside.

These small-scale but large impact projects are often the result of countless and tireless hours of work by Eastside residents. When houses are repainted it is both volunteers and neighbors who do the painting. Dignowity Hill's new street signs were paid for in part through a neighborhood fundraiser, and the work at community gardens could not be accomplished without all of the hard work of Eastside residents. Without the work and dedication of our residents these accomplishments would not be possible.



Glorietta Street Project

The Glorieta Street Project included the repair and revitalization of over 40 homes and vacant lots in March and April of 2011. Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor, the Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office, UTSA College of Architecture, Spurs Sports & Entertainment, and many Eastside residents worked together to improve this Eastside street.

The Glorieta Street Project consisted of property maintenance, landscaping, vacant lot clearing, tree planting, brush pick up and sidewalk installation. Repair to homes was completed by UTSA Architecture students in the STAR program and consisted of window, siding, and porch repair as well as painting and landscaping.



Historic Street Signs

In September of 2011 Dignowity Hill became the first Eastside neighborhood to get street signs designating the neighborhood as historic. This will not be the last neighborhood to get the signs.

Many Eastside residents are proud of the history and historic nature of their neighborhoods and believe that street signs are a great way let people know about that history. In Dignowity Hill the roughly 300 signs were paid for through a combination of City funds and money raised by the neighborhood residents. Other historic neighborhoods, such as Knob Hill, have begun taking steps to display the history of their neighborhood through street signs.



Community Gardens

When most people think about community gardens they probably just think about parcels of land with some vegetables growing. But community gardens are much more than that; they improve our health and the health of the environment, they provide exercise and education opportunities, they are a place for people to meet and build relationships, and they beautify our neighborhoods.

Community gardens bring fresh fruit and vegetables, shade, and beautiful flowers to many Eastside neighborhoods. Through the work of organizations like Green Spaces Alliance, there are now at least eight community gardens on the Eastside. These community gardens are in many neighborhoods and parks throughout the Eastside. There are gardens near W.W. White, Sutton Oaks Apartments, Dignowity Hill and Pittman-Sullivan Park to name just a few.

As our Eastside neighborhoods regain some of the population they lost in recent decades the open space that community gardens provide will become even more valuable. The community gardens will help protect that open space and ensure that our land is used efficiently and with care.

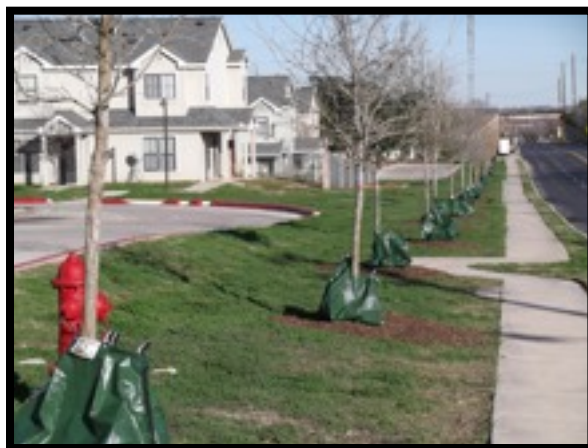


MLK Corridor

In a joint effort to highlight the 25th anniversary of the San Antonio MLK Day March and achieve the quality of life goals laid out in the 2010 summit meetings the MLK Drive corridor has undergone a tremendous amount of change. Through a partnership with CPS, SAWS, the Spurs, SAGE, Home Depot, SAHA, and SAISD the MLK Drive corridor and march route has undergone extensive rehabilitation.

The rehab efforts include clean ups and future capital improvement projects. The rehab program consisted of graffiti removal, cleaning vacant lots, painting houses, planting new trees, repairing streetlights and poles, painting murals, and repaving and restriping the street. The work was completed over the course of multiple weekends in late 2011 by groups of volunteers from organizations and Eastside residents.

In addition to the work of our public partners the City of San Antonio through the Public Works Department invested over \$390,000 into the cleanup of Martin Luther King Drive.



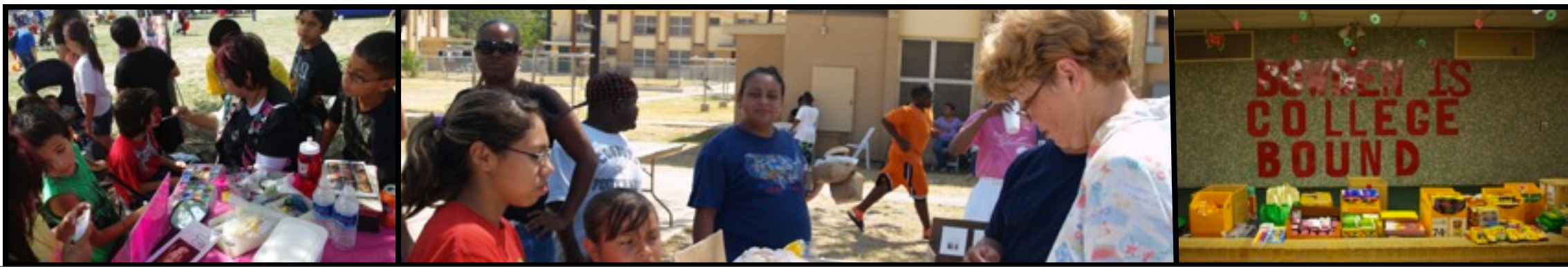
Education and Youth

Education is often acknowledged as the key to healthy and successful futures. During the Eastside Reinvestment Summit participants solidified their commitment to education and youth in east San Antonio. A common theme among summit participants was the need for a greater involvement among community members in local schools.

We have seen that commitment to childhood education can make a difference in the lives of our children. At Tynan Early Childhood Center and Fort Sam Houston High School the students have demonstrated that with hard work and the involvement of their families that a good education can open the world to them. Through the Promise Neighborhood grant the positive work at Tynan and Fort Sam could be replicated at schools across the Eastside if students work hard and families remain committed to education.

Investment in our children does not just happen at our public schools. Private schools and community organizations have worked to enhance the lives and futures of our children. In fact, some of the finest private schools in San Antonio are a short drive from many Eastside neighborhoods and organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, the Davis-Scott YMCA, and the Carver Academy continue, year after year, to provide children with the resources they need to succeed.

Many positive steps were taken over the previous two years to enhance the educational and youth oriented programs on the Eastside. As the reinvestment process moves forward we should continue to see an increased emphasis on education and a return on that investment in lower dropout rates, higher test scores, and increased college enrollment.



Promise & Choice Neighborhood Grants

During the 2010 summit, participants stressed the need for a holistic approach to many of the challenges they saw facing the Eastside. Improved housing alone would not revitalize the Eastside, and better education alone could not do it, and neither could enhanced child services. A holistic approach that addresses all these issues and more was needed. The Eastside got closer to this integrated service when it was awarded the planning grants for the Promise and Choice Neighborhoods. In December of 2011 San Antonio's Eastside was awarded the full Promise Neighborhood grant from the United States Department of Education.

The Promise Neighborhood grant, a collaboration led by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, is a \$24.6 million grant from the federal government to provide “cradle to career” services. The grant is aimed at improving educational services at all steps in the educational pathway from pre-K to college. The grant will be distributed over five years and will cover an area of 3.2 miles that includes Wheatley Middle School, Bowden, Washington and Pershing elementary schools, Tynan Early Childhood Center, and Fort Sam Houston High School.

Our area was also a recipient of the Choice Neighborhood planning grant, a two-year \$250,000 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development grant that will help transform the Wheatley Courts area into a mixed-income neighborhood. The Choice Neighborhood program connects housing improvements with various other public services including education, employment, and public transportation. The San Antonio Housing Authority looks forward to applying for Choice Neighborhood implementation funds from HUD when the planning is complete.



Students Together Achieving Revitalization

In the Fall of 2010 and again in the Spring of 2011 200 architecture students at UTSA, the Office of Historic Preservation, and Dignowity Hill residents joined together to complete exterior repair projects on 13 homes in the historic neighborhood. The work was completed over two weekends and addressed issues such as window repair, siding, porches, and landscaping.

The STAR program provides hands-on learning opportunities for San Antonio's college students and provides resources to Eastside residents who might not otherwise be able to afford them. In addition to getting work experience, the college students were able to see many of the beautiful historic homes on the Eastside.



KaBOOM!

Improving the lives of children means more than improving educational and housing opportunities. It also means improving their opportunities to play and grow, to explore their world and expand their imagination, to create an active and healthy lifestyle and to be proud of where they live. KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization that has built over 2,000 playgrounds, will help the children of the Eastside do just that.

In December of 2011 over 150 volunteers from Humana, United Way, KaBOOM! and Eastside residents came together to build a playground for children at the Ella Austin Community Center. The playground, which is also designed to provide exercise opportunities for people of all ages, was designed by Eastside children and will long be a point of pride for neighborhood residents.

The KaBOOM! playground was such a success and is so popular with the neighborhood children that United Way has announced that a second playground will be built on the Eastside in early 2012.



Quality of Life

At the 2010 Eastside Reinvestment Summit attendees made it clear that quality of life issues were of the utmost importance. Such issues include public safety, code enforcement, senior home repair and animal care services. Over the last two years many steps have been taken and programs initiated to ensure that quality of life issues came to the forefront. Code Compliance established the Neighborhood Enhancement Team and Animal Care Services increased the scope and frequency of stray dog round-ups.

The quality of life issues have brought together partners from across the city. Not only have residents taken on a larger role in the maintenance of the neighborhoods, but organizations such as CPS, SAWS, the Spurs, SAHA, SAISD, and COSA have contributed time, money, and manpower to tackling these quality of life issues head on.

Despite all of the positive work in the areas of development, job creation and training, education, and childcare, a successful reinvestment in the Eastside would not be possible without an enhanced focus on quality of life. Overall, crime rates in the last two years have dropped, hundreds of stray dogs have been rounded up, many homes have been repaired and code compliance issues have been addressed across the board.



Crime

Fundamental to improving quality of life is a decrease in crime. Throughout the 2010 summit meetings attendees continually brought up the issue of crime on the Eastside. In an effort to reduce crime the San Antonio Police Department began employing a “Problem Oriented Policing” model that combines traditional policing methods with other aspects of quality of life issues. This means that not only are police officers responding to and preventing crime but they are also checking to make sure streetlights are working, dogs are not roaming the street, and children are looked after and in school.

In addition to “Problem Oriented Policing” the Police Department has created SAFEE units, assigned over 25 additional officers to the Eastside, and began the StrIDE program. As a part of the expanded police presence on the Eastside, the Police Department has been holding a series public meetings to provide information to residents and collect feedback from concerned citizens.

Since the summit was held and an expanded approach to Eastside policing was developed crime has gone down. However, at the end of 2011 there was a rash of shootings. This outbreak of crime was responded to swiftly and effectively by the San Antonio Police Department. In response to the shootings Councilwoman Taylor held a public meeting to further address the issue of crime. The meeting was attended by more than 200 Eastside residents and the City Manger Sheryl Sculley, Police Chief McManus, and Mayor Castro. At this meeting attendees made clear their desire to see crime come to an end on the Eastside.



Crime

Number of incidents per year.

	2009	2010	% Change	2011	% Change
Violent Crime					
Murder	19	15	-21.05	19	+26.6
Robbery	425	314	-26.2	247	-21.1
Deadly Conduct	199	153	-23.12	179	16.9
Property Crime					
Burglary	3,746	3,369	-10.06	2,885	-14.4
Other Crime					
Prostitution	122	161	+31.97		
Narcotics	1,389	1,525	+9.79	1,058	-30.6
Graffiti		173		109	-37.0

Fire Station # 1

In October of 2011 more than 100 Eastside residents celebrated the Grand Opening of Fire Station #1 located at 515 S. Cherry Street. The opening of Fire Station # 1 is the first new station to open within the lifetime of many Eastside residents. But this new station could be the first of many new stations as the 2012-2017 bond calls for two more new stations on the Eastside.

Fire Station # 1 houses about 16 EMS, firefighters, and administrators at any given time. In addition to their regular duties these firefighters are also San Antonio's elite Hazardous Materials Team. The state-of-the-art, two-story facility contains four large apparatus bays, one EMS bay and a Command Center with two bays. The firefighters enjoy a full kitchen and dining room, training and exercise room and individual dorm rooms. The total budget for the new station's land acquisition and construction was \$7.8 million.

When not conducting official Fire Department business, the Station # 1 team often spends time in Eastside neighborhoods at block parties, National Night Out events, and school presentations. The station is also open for tours by children and school groups.

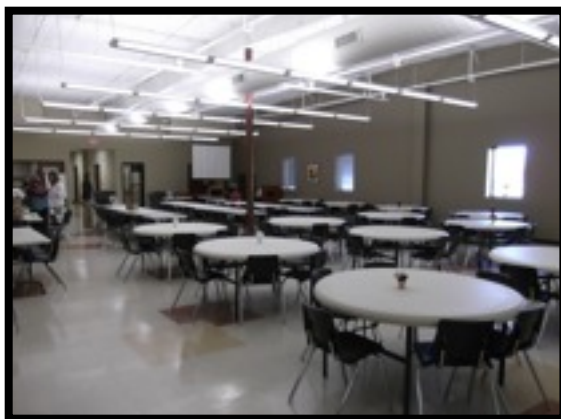


Senior Center

In March of 2011 over 350 District 2 residents joined Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor for the grand opening of a state-of-the-art, comprehensive District 2 Senior Center. The 8,000 square foot facility provides noon meals and wellness services to an estimated 200 seniors (60 years of age and older) daily.

The facility provides senior citizens the opportunity to participate in activities that include arts & crafts, exercise classes, recreation and dance, computer classes, work search programs and field trips. Featured amenities include a health screening room, a fitness area, a fully equipped computer lab, a classroom and art/activities rooms. The center also has case management assistance offices, recreational space and much more. Senior patrons can drive to the center, request City transportation (within a five mile radius), or use convenient VIA bus routes. The City of San Antonio invested \$200,000 in finishing out the space for the center.

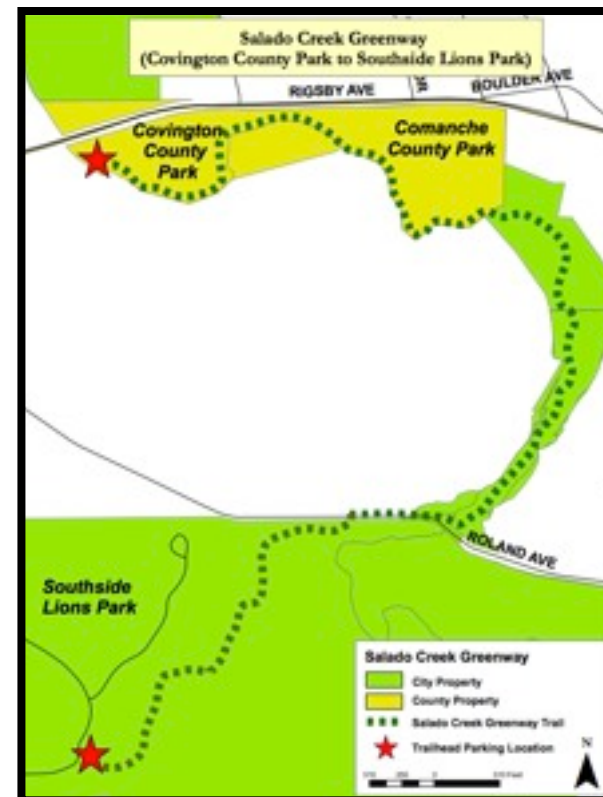
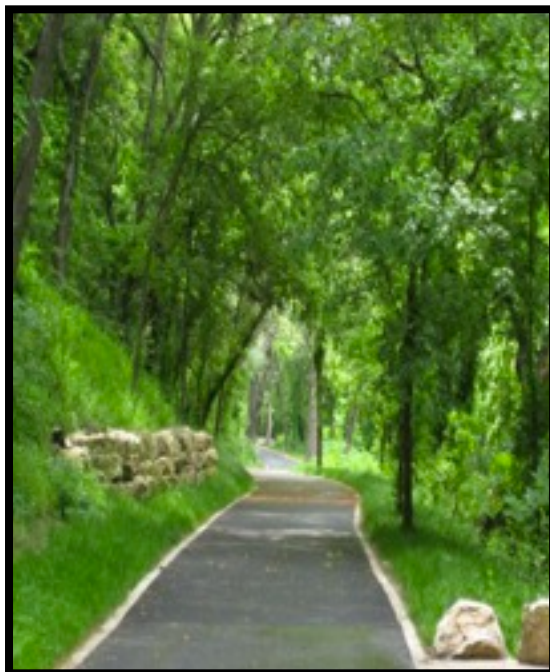
The center is located on 1751 W.W. White Road and is open Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Salado Creek Hike & Bike Trail

The Salado Creek Hike & Bike Trail is a 2.8-mile greenway that runs between John James Park and Southside Lions Park. This portion of the trail passes through a total of seven city parks, the Willow Springs Golf Course, and near the Wheatley Height Sports Complex. The trail, which is part of a citywide greenway effort, runs along Salado Creek in the flood zone and is made of pavement, concrete, and natural surface.

The trail is an investment in the health and wellbeing of Eastside residents and it will have its grand opening in early 2012. The trail will be well marked and provide a fun and safe location for Eastside residents of all ages to run, walk, bike or just take a nice stroll to get some fresh air.



Looking to the Future



Future housing site on MLK Drive



Proposed 2012-2017 Bond project at Pittman-Sullivan Park



Denver Heights Home Repair program



Carver Library improvements

Looking to the Future

The City of San Antonio remains committed to improving the quality of life in east San Antonio and will ensure that the gains that have been made in areas of animal control, code enforcement and crime prevention are sustained. As we move into 2012 and the coming years, the City of San Antonio and its partners will strengthen their efforts in three key areas. These areas of focus are **housing, corridor development, and education.**

City staff and its public partners have already begun work on improving our housing stock by repairing and rehabbing existing single-family homes and constructing new multi-family housing. Going forward, the City with its public and private partners would like to build new single-family housing that accentuates the beauty of our many Eastside neighborhoods.

Economic corridor development has long been an important issue for many Eastside residents and leaders. Bringing more new businesses and new jobs to economic corridors will help make east San Antonio an even more desirable place to live and do business. Going forward, City staff and local business leaders can do more to attract and keep jobs on the Eastside.

Improving educational opportunities for future Eastside generations remains key to improving the quality of life for all San Antonio residents. Programs like Promise Neighborhood and the successes of our many public, private and magnet schools show that Eastside schools are on the right track. As we continue our efforts to enhance the Eastside the importance of education will take on an even greater role.

Looking to the Future

As we look back at the last two years we can point to many successes and as we look forward to the coming years we can see that many positive developments are on the horizon:

- ▶ Denver Heights Home Repair - funded \$250,000
- ▶ New infill housing on Martin Luther King Drive
- ▶ Lord Road connection to Loop 410 - funded \$1.55 million
- ▶ Carver Library improvements - funded \$425,000
- ▶ Willow Springs Golf Course enhancement
- ▶ SBC Parkway commercial development
- ▶ Pending 2012-2017 Bond Projects
 - Pittman-Sullivan Park walking trail
 - New library
 - Two new fire stations
 - E. Commerce Street enhancement
 - Cherry Street improvements
 - Carver Cultural Center parking improvements

These exciting projects are the type of sustained investment we can now look forward to on the Eastside.